THE VIRDEN ADVANCE.

VOLUME III. NO. 33

VIRDEN, MAN., THURSDAY, FEB. 23, 1888.

C. J. ATKINSON Proprietor.
W. H. HALL, Editor and Manager

The Large Deer Estates of Scotland.

It is alleged that a stag has lately been shot in the Duke of Richmond's forest of Langwell, in Caithnessshire, under peculiar circumstances, says the London *Telegraph*. Inside the "muckle beast" were discovered, when the stomach was opened, no fewer than eleven rounds of cartridges, which must have found their way into it when the stag was at bay. It is to be presumed that the cartridges, after being discharged from a rifle, fell upon the ground and were licked by the stag, which, like all animals of the bovine, ovine and cervine species, was doubtless very fond of salt. The saltpetre, which is one of the chief ingredients in gunpowder, was apparently so grateful to the stag's palate that it swallowed the paper cases containing it. There are indeed few things which the digestion of wild animals is not capable of assimilating, although it was said by Dr. Johnson that the stomach of man and of the pig, which bear a close resemblance to each other, are stronger than those of any other creature, whether tame or wild. A man in the highest condition, who has passed the age of forty, for nine weeks in deer stalking, is probably able to carry and digest about as much food as does the stag he hunts. The season for deer stalking is now upon us, and it is understood that the Prince of Wales will soon pay a visit to Mar Lodge as the guest of Lord Fife, who has also let his forest very recently entertaining Prince Albert Victor, the eldest son of the heir apparent. The deer are said to be upward of 150 deer forests in Scotland, the average between them of one of rather less than 2,000,000 acres. Five of these forests exceed 50,000 acres in extent, the largest of which is Glenfeshie, at 64sar, which covers not much less than 100,000 acres of ground. Next in order come respectively the Black Mount, in Argyllshire, with about 70,000 acres; the Forest of Reay, in Sutherlandshire, with 65,000 acres; that of Gillanstrahir, in Inverness-shire, with 59,000 acres; that of Auchnashellach, in Ross and Cromarty, of which several members of the family of Inverness Fraser and Cromarty, and according to an astounding tradition of Highland history, the whole of the throe fourths of the Scottish deer forests are to be found. As to a shadow or scantily filled purse does it fall to own or rent a deer forest. How a small change of the kind will command a rent of £500 per annum, and for the immense acreage of which an American grazier pays £12,000, is the lessee, an annual rent of more than £12,000 is paid.

There has been an outcry raised against Mr. Gladstone because his wife owns a few of the finer forests in Scotland; while his chief, and, being unselfishly unable to live in more than one house at a time, like the others uncorrupted. Yet is is sustainable, on the other hand, by his friends, that the Baltimore millionaire spends more money in Scotland than four or five wealthy Englishmen would collectively dispose under similar circumstances. Those appears to be better tone just now in the Liberal party. Mr. Whitaker is the new chief Secretary for Scotland, and occupying an enormous area of ground to conduct the affairs of his own bills, or, in other words, to prevent the meagre of granulation, as sanguinaries. In the winter of 1886-7, body of himself, to give the law to the poor, the same poachers—broke one night into Mr. Whitaker's sanctuary at Rhitil not killed seven of his deer. It was alleged that on the ground so invaded the American lessee had not allowed a shot to be fired for four or five years. The onslaught made upon it by so organized bands of trespassers was regarded as a premeditated attack upon the principle of landed property, which has always been unpopular in the Highlands.

Irish would be admitted the lands and chiefs of the Highlands, and the Irish, in other words, took part in the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745—solid they be made aware of the present price now paid for barren hillsides, moors, heather and ditches and lonely forests, which, until the Duke of Richmond's time, had not been let for 6d. a square mile. Sir John Ramsay, for instance, is said to have expended nearly £200,000 during his residence in the Highlands. There are many Highland lessees of moors and deer forests who spend £5,000 a year or more for the pleasure of killing what is invisible but by looking salmon and grilse in the "land o' Cakes." Such expensive brains, which succeed American millionaires and friends with the British metropolis, have added incalculably to the value of estates in North Britain which were once abandoned to the scream of the curlew and the undisturbed reign of the golden eagle.

The Truth of Weather Lore.

The persistent survival of weather-lore in these days of late the best proof that there is not at all remarkable when we consider the extent to which the vulgar sayings embody real truths. A few years ago Messrs. Abercrombie and Marriott embarked on an extremely interesting inquiry with a view to determine, by actual comparison, how far the popular sayings on the subject were the expression of which the results of meteorological science show to be real. The investigation proved that something like a hundred of the more popular sayings are, under ordinary conditions, trustworthy. Such a saying, for case, we need not be surprised that simple country folk prefer familiar compared to the "cyclone," of "cyclones," and "equatorial current," in the world. If "hills clear, rain near," means the same as the presence of a wedge-shaped area of high pressure, accompanied by an atmosphere of visibility, it likely to be followed by the advance of a disturbance with rain and south-erly winds which is the fact. Similarly when it does, the preference is justified on the same ground of knowledge gained from the incompetence or dishonesty of bank directors. If they are all honest, as they ought to be, they will have no reason to fear the result of an examination, and if they are not, the report the act requires and from which the public have a right to know whether such bank is true. If they are not it is false and leads to ruin finddent depositors and share-holders, and is therefore a thing that would save—Ex.

UNITED STATES NEWS.

The sugar trust in the States has closed by four refineries.

Barnum has made an offer for the steamship Great Eastern.

Georgia farms are mortgaged for $8,000,000 of foreign capital.

Real estate valued at $100,000,000 changed hands in New York city during the year 1887.

It will take $70,000 to bear up the Great Eastern, which was recently sold for $16,000.

Twenty-six persons are confined in the Fort Smith, Ark., jail on the charge of murder.

It is expected that the new German Military bill will involve an expenditure of 845,000,000 marks.

A football player of Aberarne was rather severely kicked in the abdomen by a fellow player recently which we know to be based upon error, it is said to us. The reverence for tradition is too much for us. And of all the unsavoury, and unsavoury, which daily our attempts at destruction, the most insufferable are those describing certain of Scott's heroes as "fell fighters."

Australia now exports orange to England.

London Socialists were prevented from holding a meeting in Trafalgar square yesterday.

Russia is said to be contemplating the strengthening of the Black Sea fleet on the Pacific coast.

Julian Hawthorne's new story is called "The Fatal Letter." It is supposed she discovered it in her husband's coat pocket six weeks after the letter had been in his hands to mail.

Mrs. Lydia Watson of Leicester, Mass., whose 101st birthday has just been celebrated, is in excellent health. Her form is erect, and she has a fine appetite and eats well. She now she is considerably occupied with a great grandfather, whom recent arrival has greatly interested her. If the young mother would permit, the great-grandmother would assume full charge of the little girl.

Electricity is about to be put to a new use. The engraving of newspaper in London that Thames has necessarily polluted that river; and, in searching for some means of preventing the evil, a chemist has discovered that electricity transmitted into the sewage produces the requisition of a chemical change. The electric current sets the particles of matter in a gelatinary motion, and the result is that the organic matter collects at the top in a semi-solid form, so that it can easily be separated from the transparent fluid beneath. The experiments have so far been conducted on a small scale, but if the plan should prove to be cheap and practicable it would go far toward solving a problem that agitates every large city.

THE WEEK'S NEWS.

CANADIAN.

The jury in the inquest on the body of Robt. Dunn, of London Township, came to the conclusion that the fatal shot was fired by the deceased's own hand, either accidentally or intentionally.

The coming census of the successful combination of masters on Manitoba school lands to prevent fair prices being realized at the recent sales, the Government threatens to pass a bill next session to enable them to dispose of the lands by private sale.

Canadian interest in the new Sault Ste. Marie bridge is the greater owing to the announcement by chief engineer Peters that work is a Canadian, Mr. P. A. Peterson, Mr. Peterson had also the honor of acting as the chief engineer of the Victoria bridge at Montreal.

The Preston correspondent of The Kingsdale Review referring to the death of Mr. Hugh Lamont, who was suffocated by escaping gas at the house of Mr. D. P. McLaurin, of Toronto, says:—The deaths that have occurred in this locality have been peculiarly sad and tragic. One brother-in-law murdered another, another killed by a gun, and Hugh suffocated in his bed by escaping gas.

A rich find of gold-bearing rock is reported from a new opening in the Richardson Hills, Leeds. Specimens of the gold-bearing lode, which has many times been encountered in the shafts sunk in the district, are of a small character, but as last seen struck at a depth of only 14 feet. Mr. J. B. Church and another resident of Madoc are interested, and another mine is thus added to the number of Hastings on the same hill.

The death of Big Bear removes a prominent figure in the North-West rebellion. Big Bear, whose head of the band that perpetrated the Frog Lake outrage, by his second vanished and later than imprisonment owing to the discovery that he had put acted as chief during the troubles. Big Bear's career was marked by a policy and practically controlled the actions of the band. Big Bear, whatever his faults during his lifetime, is now a dead and shorn lion's good fellow.

Mr. Whitaker, Mowat, at a banquet given in his honour at Calgary the other day, gave some interesting statistics regarding the North-West. He says the Territory has now four members of Parliament, four stipendiary magistrates, a Supreme Court, 12 justices of the peace, 59 issuers of marriage licenses, 58 notaries, 20 doctors, 136 post offices, five Supreme court judges, five registrars, one clerk of the Legislature, 115 schools, and a population not yet reaching thirty thousand. For the population the country is well educated.

Saturday is a great day for petty smuggling from Detroit, whence so many people go over to Windsor to spend their money and purchase goods in the city. Saturday last, Landing vans were followed from the dock a couple of women, when he suspected of having smuggled goods in the city. They entered a livery stable, made their way to the office, all unsuspicious that they were being watched, and, after paying for the use of the livery, left. Then the officers entered the office and found $25 worth of goods in the basket and started to their customer, for instance, to add the amount to the taxes of the official, who was the name of the Queen took charge of the goods and all and carried them into the Custom-house. The women were very angry, but the officials were invincible and the goods were confiscated.

The audited phase of the Central Bank, Toronto, and the list of widows and orphaned families that it impoverishes. Bank shares are held by people who have no means to lose and paying investment for trust moneys. Many investments are made on the basis of partial ownership of a bank promises to the shareholder probably encouraged the small families who placed their all in Central stock. Their experience will make investments in any but the best Government bonds unpopular for years. There is a prevailing impression that the Dominion law provides absolute safety for the machinery by which the incompetence or dishonesty of bank directors. If they are all honest, as they ought to be, they will have no reason to fear the result of an examination, and if they are not it is false and leads to ruin finddent depositors and share-holders, and is therefore a thing that would save.—Ex.

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There is a thrifty woman living at Briar Creek, N. Y. Not long ago her husband died, and she took the headstone from his first wife's grave and had it dressed over and reinforced for his grave.

A Main man who owns a big and shaggy but black Newfoundland dog, one of the dog's hair carefully, had it carded and spun, and got two and a quarter pounds of jet-black yarn as soft as lamb's wool.

A young man was found frozen to death in a Michigan forest a few days ago. Last year is getting in its work promptly. Shall to the rack, young man. Only a fiance dispose of his love by private sale.

A revised list of the fatalities by last week's blizzard in the North-Western States and Territories, as far as reported, is missing. Dakota is the heaviest sufferer, 98 of the total number of deaths having occurred in that Territory.

Mr. Wanamaker, of Philadelphia, has quietly purchased the property on which for his proposed Bible House. The property consists of the site of both rooms, occupied and dashing rooms, and bowling alleys.

Tall Rock, Cal., is a prohibition town and all deeds to town lots forever forbid the sale of liquors. A saloon was built there, but the hotel there to cost about $20,000 is now used as a boarding house. This will be the only prohibition house and no rum will be allowed in it.

A Missouri man says that he recently went into the woods, painted a black stump on the end of a log, and when he went back to the log an hour later he found 300 dead rabbits there, the animals having mistaken the stump for a hole in the log and dashed themselves to death against it.

A woman has been elected president of a street railway company in Dover, N. H., while her husband, to give the modern position of treasurer. The newly ladies' hiring in those cars will be required to stand up and give the male sex their seats. Canada that yield to pressure to be the weaker vessel.

Among the passengers by the Britannia, which arrived in New York a few days ago from the Mediterranean, were several young girls who said they had come to America to marry rich husbands. They never saw. The intended bridegrooms failed to meet them, and the girls were detained at Castle Garden.

Opponents of Government ownership of telegraph lines in the United States are calling attention to the recent boycott of the Government Cable Company by the British Government. Operators in Germany have been instructed by the chief telegraph officer to refuse to receive messages from any are all Government officials, they must obey. The incident is cited as an illustration of the power which control of telegraphic communication gives a government.

The steel gun cast the other day at Pittsburgh, when it is bored and ready for the government test, will be probably the largest steel gun ever made in this country. It will toss its projectile with a force of 2,000 tons to the distance of seven in the chamber being fifteen tons. Its cost to the United States Government will be about $3,300. A built-up gun of the same size, or even one built up by a single piece, would cost $22,100. In view of this fact, the success of the experiment is considered one of the important recent achievements in gun making.

FOREIGN.

The French Court of Appeal has decided that priests in France may get married.

Dr. R. Macdonnell, professor of surgery of Glasgow, has failed with liabilities of $200,000.

The Queen Regent of Spain has addressed a letter to Mrs. Cleveland asking her for her photograph.

Cardinal Manning is reported to have written a letter to Rome, cautioning the Vatican against opposing Lord Salisbury in Irish affairs.

The family of the Crown Prince is greatly excited over the poisoning by some unknown person of the Crown Prince's favorite dog.

A panic occurred in a church in the south of the Tyrol on Tuesday, caused by a woman falsifying and eight persons were crushed to death.

The city council in Warsaw, Gen. Gourko said 50,000,000 roubles would be required to complete the fortifications on the Russian frontier.

A bill for the government of London has been drafted and will probably be brought in early in the approaching session of the Imperial Parliament.

A conflagration at Dimitrius Antippa has just died in Constantinople at the age of 115. He knew Robespierre and possessed several of his letters.

The police authorities say Mr. Balfour is in constant danger of assassination, and that his life has been preserved so far only by ceaseless vigilance.

A German paper makes the statement that Germany could again overrun France within a year, and that next time the whole of France will be annexed.

Paris boasts of 10,000 cabs, 600 omnibuses and 500 tram-cars. The cabs pay the company possesses 14,000 horses. The length of the tram-way line is over 150 miles.

A Frenchman was recently granted a divorce by a Paris judge on the sole ground that his wife would not allow him to read all the letters she wrote and received.

The English Divorce Court has decided that an American divorce holds good in England when the divorced persons were married in America and lived together there.

Ismail Pasha, the ex-Khedive, left Naples and went to Constantinople to live because he was unable to keep the young men of the Naples fleet from making love to the women of his harem.

A telegram says the Duke of Cumbridge hopes the people of England will insist on the country's commerce being adequately protected by a powerful navy. Few will gainsay his words.

Rev. J. T. Stodart, missionary, writes from Japan that if subsequent attempts to be economical they can have very little to spare. The people live in poor style, and the people despise them.

Fred Brie of Alghanistan has fallen in love with the pigeon and has ordered 200 of them for Cabul. The Shah of Persia has also ordered a brass band. Thus music soothes the savage breast.

It is stated efforts are being made to arrange a meeting there are "Mr. Gladstone and Prince Bismarck to convince the ex-Premier of the latter's best policy is to adhere to the central powers.

Probably one of the oldest meeting houses in the world is the Bangund church in Norway, the age of which is 800 years. The pagoda-like structure is covered with shingles and is kept in a very good state of repair. Services interesting to scholars are on the building.

It is understood in Rome that the American bishops have advised the Pope not to condemn the Irish Nationalists.

OUR SPECIAL CABLE.

The War Cloud Ready to Burst—Russia and Austria Want Money.

LONDON, Feb. 6.—Germany will be exposed to an attack from France when Russia reads the Summer Treaty, which has not yet appeared in the Russian press. The Moscow papers to-day are pessimistic in tone. They predict that the negotiations with Austria will not result in the interests of Russia.

FRESH MOVEMENTS ON THE FRONTIER.

The *Kreus Zeitung* records fresh army movements on the frontier. The hard, dry frost favors the marching of men and horses and the transportation of war material, and the concentration of troops along the line of the Russian railway progresses. The feeling [illegible] is more pessimistic. Large orders [illegible] are being [illegible] delegated, according to the *Kreus Zeitung*, to co-operate against East Prussia.

RUSSIA TRYING TO RAISE A WAR LOAN.

Russia continues its negotiations for a 33,000,000 loan in Paris and Amsterdam, and is reported to be on the eve of success. The high terms offered, backed by the recommendations of the French Government, are inducements for the bankers to venture. The Barings have placed 15,000,000 roubles with the Mendelssohns on Russia's behalf. The Credit Lyonnais and Transatlantic Company represent with Gwynne by the treasury to the railroad and [illegible] Bleichroder have also pledged to the Barings, who issue them in London at 91 per cent. German investors retain Prussian securities with great tenacity. The selling on the Bourse to-day, which was largely speculative in character, has been thrown down to 1. The buying of Russian securities for investment has entirely ceased. American railroad securities of the best kind are being taken in place. A dispatch received from St. Petersburg to-night asserts that the French loan proposals submitted to the Czar were so generous that they were declined. On the other hand reports have been received at Frankfort that a loan of 400,000,000 roubles has actually been concluded by Russia from French capitalists at a nominal rate of interest.

SWITZERLAND'S PERIL.

The Haspil-Schroeder incident has led the Government at Zurich to reprimand Chief of Police Fischer for supplying Herr Bebel the information on the effect that those who took sides in the sympathy of the German Socialist leader. Those who favored it are all Government officials, they must obey. The incident is cited as an illustration of the power which control of telegraphic communication gives a government.

KAISER WILHELM IN GOOD HEALTH.

The Emperor and Empress are now in Berlin. They have been receiving and audiences daily to Gens. von Schellendorf and Albedyll, over the military bill, holds conferences with Prince Bismarck and entertains nightly.

CROWN PRINCE IN BETTER HEALTH.

The better prospects of the Crown Prince have caused a revival of the gayeties of Berlin society. A double-blague regarding the actual state of the Crown Prince. The bulletins on the occasion of the last examination leave a sense of uncertainty. The duty of performing an operation, if one became necessary, would fall upon Dr. Bramann. The Crown Prince will remain at San Remo until the beginning of May. Drs. Hovell, Krause and Bramann will be in constant attendance upon him. Dr. Bramann is ready to perform the operation of tracheotomy, which is sometimes necessary in cases of perichondritis.

LOSSES BY FIRE.

Several Buildings Burned With Their Contents—Photograph Gallery Consumed —Incidents of the Conflagration.

The frame dwelling owned and occupied by Mrs. Walker, of Hamilton, was totally destroyed by fire the other night, together with most of the contents. The house was insured in the Agricultural for $500, and the contents in the Western for $500. Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald and wife, who were boarding with Mrs. Walker, lost all their wearing apparel.

A boy's block two storey frame store was burned to the ground. Loss on building, $600; insured for $300 in the British American. Loss on stock, $1,000; insured for $500 in the Queen.

One morning last week, the photograph gallery occupied by H. Fowler, Lindsay, was found enveloped in flames. Had it not been for the efficient water works system and the prompt exertions of the firemen, notwithstanding the late zero temperature, the loss would undoubtedly have been very severe. The building and contents are almost a total loss; insured in the London Assurance Company for $500 on building and $200 on stock. J. Hesbet, barber, loses about $200 on his furniture, fully covered by insurance in the Lancashire Insurance Company. W. McCarty, jeweller, loses about $200 on stock, insured in the Western for $500.

About ten o'clock the other night a fire broke out in Coburg in an adjoining used by Mr. A. B. Appleby for stocking and curing hides, situated in the northern part of the town. The building and contents were entirely destroyed. Loss, $9,000; insured in the Royal for $5,400. The fire is said to have been set by an incendiary. Mr. Appleby does a large business in hides employing a staff of [illegible].

A Petroleum Gas Engine.

The following is translated from *Nature* (Paris): "The launch worked by this machine is 25 feet long, 5 feet 3 inches broad and 3 feet deep. It has been running since June last from Havre to Tancarville by the lower canal, making an average speed of 6 knots per hour. There are two cylinders of simple action and a flywheel in a horizontal plane. The cylinders can be worked independently of each other. The petroleum steam is produced cold and so without any danger of explosion, in a receiving cylinder placed next to the engine, and worked by the engine itself. The petroleum motor offers considerable advantages over the steam engine. The vessel is started at will, without any previous generation of steam. Whilst the vessel is at rest absolutely nothing is consumed. There is no smoke nor dirt of any kind. There is absolutely no danger of explosion. Perhaps the greatest advantage is the small weight of burning material necessary to carry; indeed, this motor consumes about 80 lb. per horse-power per hour. Three gallons of the petroleum will last twelve hours."

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

The Local Government bill which will be introduced at the beginning of the session, is said to be very democratic in its character and will be heartily supported by every member of the Government, including Mr. Goschen.

In the opinion of the commercial journals there are too many persons in business. Every branch appears to have been overstocked and still the number of merchants is on the increase. There can be little doubt that we have reached the "stage the census" during which everybody should move with caution until business is restored to a sound condition.

In his speech in Congress in support of his Commercial Annexation resolutions, Mr. Benjamin Butterworth clearly showed that he is aiming at shutting off our trade with great Britain. He said: "England is not anxious to see the ports of the United States opened to Canada for trade while they are closed against her, at least to the extent of a tariff for revenue and prohibition."

Just as there are professional dii ners on in Paris, who at a moment's notice take the place of a guest unable through illness to attend a dinner party, there are also professional seconds for duels. These men may never have fought a duel, in their lives, but they contrive to get themselves so puffed for their services that many of the public men who are fighting swords and pistols on the art of handling swords and pistols on fields of honour.

The 150 police who went to evict Daryl Foley, of Ballygrogue, on the estate of Col. Tottenham, County Wexford, had a few engine with them. After the end of the house had been battered in, the defenders drove back the police with garden syringes filled with hot water. The hose from the fire engine was then turned on, and a stream of cold water sent into the building for an hour, at the end of which time the defenders and shivering defenders surrendered.

In an article in the last issue of this journal we had occasion to the possibility of Ontario declaring her independence and setting up as a distinct and separate republic. That remark has led to considerable comment, some of these comments are highly flattering to this journal. We don't mind uncomplimentary comments. We are quite used to them. Those who don't read this journal need not subscribe, and those who do exercise we expect to pay up. There is our sentiments.—*Sobeyspoon Independent.*

The Bard was asked, to compose a little song about his childhood, and this is what he produced:—"How dear to my heart is the school I attended, and how I remember me distant and' dint, that red-headed Bill sat the pin that I bended, and carefully pin on the bench under him. And how I loved the surprise of the master, when Bill gave a yell and sprang up from the pin, as high that his bullet head smashed up the plaster above, and the scholars all sat up in their native boy, Billy; that high-leaping Billy; that loud-shouting Billy, that sat on a pin."

We would like to know what Senator Gill, of Florida, who has introduced a bill to prohibit foreigners from trees, meaning this within three marine leagues (miles) of the coast, means by any of the laws passed by the United States," would allow to Canadians in the way of rights. If he is in accord with some of his most loud-mouthed countrymen, Canada may not present United States fishermen from fishing anywhere they please on our Atlantic coast, while Canadians are prohibited from fishing in the open sea, miles from the United States fish-reef. Is it to be a question "whether might" prevail, or have we a right a man on the continent?

To-day thirty-four missionary societies are at work in Africa, and still 200,000,000 souls may be visited with the message. Of the 1,000 missionaries who have entered India, and the 1,000,000 converts, 900,000 souls are practically within the reach of Christian missions; thirty three societies have begun work in China, and all the 350

The Virden Advance.

— WEEKLY. —

Issued Every Thursday, from the Office of Publication, Seventh Avenue.

TERMS: $1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.

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Accounts rendered monthly.

C. J. ATKINSON, Proprietor. W. H. HALL, Editor & Manager.

The Virden Advance.

THURSDAY, FEB. 23rd, 1888.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The treaty on the fisheries question was signed last Wednesday evening by the foreign plenipotentiaries and domestic members of the fisheries conference. The treaty was forwarded to England, but as yet nothing is certain as to its contents.

* * *

A FEARFUL cyclone struck the town of Mount Vernon, Ill., last Sunday evening, which destroyed half the town, and set fire the remainder. As far as can be learned some fifty persons were killed and 250 injured.

* * *

THE Constituency of Shoal Lake is vacant, Hon. G. E. Hamilton written out his resignation before leaving with his family for St. Paul last Saturday. The writ for a new election will probably be issued in a few days.

* * *

THE elections that took place last Thursday in two constituencies resulted in very decided victories for the Government. Hon. J. Martin was elected by a majority of 128, while Hon. Mr. Prendergast's majority was 164. Mr. Prendergast's opponent will lose his deposit of $200, as he only polled one-third as many votes as the Provincial Secretary.

* * *

MR. W. B. SCARTH, M.P. for Winnipeg, has met with a severe rebuff in his own constituency. Last Friday evening the annual meeting of the Winnipeg Liberal-Conservative Association was held in that city, and proved to be a very noisy affair. As a candidate for the presidency of the Association he was defeated by Mr. Wm. Hespeler, by a majority of five votes. Mr. Scarth's unpopularity is caused by the stand he has taken on the disallowance question. It is understood that Mr. Scarth will be asked, by petition, to resign his seat in the House, as he does not represent the views of the large majority of his constituents.

WHAT OUR EXCHANGES SAY.

It is announced that the new Manitoba Government has received an offer to build the Red River Valley Railway. The offer embraced a voluntary statement that the firm would put up a marked cheque for $100,000 as a guarantee of good faith. Mr Greenway said the offer was to build the road from West Lynne to Portage la Prairie, the Government to pay a small cash bonus and an annual subsidy for a period of twenty years.—*Commercial.*

"THE Canadian Pacific company's reply to the complaint of the Winnipeg board of trade declaring the reports of the rebates of cars to be a gross exaggeration, is an interesting effort to make the best of a very bad case. But when this denial grows into black letterheadings in the government organ of "No Wheat Rebates," as our readers, however sympathetic with the interests so served, must revolt against the methods of serving them. There are on the Montreal corn exchange men who ordered shipments from Winnipeg in the end of November two months and a half ago, and they have not received the stuff yet. The grain dealers and millers of Montreal, as well as all connected with Manitoba in business ways, whether Conservative or Liberal, know the truth regarding the railway situation in the Northwest. They know that there has simply been an utter breakdown in the transportation service and that nothing but the abolition of monopoly will meet the requirements of the situation."—*Montreal Witness.*

THE revelations made before the Labor Commission must convince the Government that the women and children working in the factories of the Dominion need protection. Laws have been required to regulate factories and workshops in other countries and it is now seen that they are no less needed in our own. The law in force in Great Britain is a comprehensive one and works well. Under it no young person employed, in a factory can be required to do more than ten hours work in a day. Children under 14 years old cannot be employed and those over ten and under sixteen are only allowed to work half time. The Government takes care that the education of these factory children is not wholly neglected, and every child must produce a certificate from a medical man that he or she is physically fitted for the work required to be done. This and the certificate from the school authorities must be produced by the employer at the demand of the Inspector. The law requires that the factories be kept clean and that they be furnished with all that is necessary to keep them in a good sanitary condition. It takes care that safeguards against injury from the machinery are provided and that women and children are not exposed to unnecessary danger. The English law is an effectual check to the greed, the neglect and inhumanity of both employer and parents.—*Montreal Star.*

COMMUNICATIONS

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents, but are willing to give space in our paper at any time for the discussion of public questions.

We shall not publish any letter unless accompanied with the name and address of the writer, not necessarily intended for publication.

OAK LAKE.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Edward Snelson's house was burnt down on monday last. His place is about 10 miles west of Oak Lake. His furniture and clothing were also destroyed. A defective stove-pipe was the cause, No insurance.

Grain has again dropped in price but little is coming in in consequence. Wheat is now 49 to 50 cents.

The Ladies of St Albans' Church of England congregation, at Oak Lake, are arranging for a concert to be held shortly in aid of the building fund. The exact date has not yet been decided on.

The thaw caused by the mild weather of the past week has made the sleighing in and approaching the village of Oak Lake to be very inferior.

The most extraordinary proceedings at the Conservative meeting which took place last week in Winnipeg when electing their President, may be in the best interest of the Province, but the Conservatives here fail to see it in that light.

HAYSDALE.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

The Pipestone M. L. Association will meet at the residence of Mr. G. Forks on Thursday, on which occasion a debate will be the order of the evening.

Mr. Guthrie was elected school trustee at the recent annual meeting of the Reston School District.

Honor to whom honor is due! Mr. Wm. Lothian has been appointed Justice of the Peace for this district. May the Greenway Government always get the right men in the right place.

Our genial friend Harry Giles has made an engagement with Mr. John Napier for his services next summer. Harry was with Mr. Napier last summer and gave good satisfaction.

One more of Cupid's victims! The genial and happy smile to be seen on the face of one of our Pipestone boys says the question has been popped and answered in the affirmative. Everyone wishes John success and happiness.

The question that is being asked by the taxpayers of the Municipality of Pipestone is, "Where does the Treasurer live?" I think it would be justice to the taxpayers if he were to appoint a deputy to be in Virden for the collection of taxes. I don't think the ratepayers have any right to pay for the registration of letters, and maybe they would rather pay 25 cents extra by the letter being delayed until after the first of March, whereas the taxpayer would have seen him in Virden and had it settled before that date. I think, in justice to the ratepayers, the council should instruct the Treasurer to go to a public place to do public business.

ELKHORN.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

BACHELORS' BALL.—The Elkhorn Bachelors' Ball, which was held here on Friday, the 17th inst., proved a brilliant success. The Committee are deserving of all praise for the manner in which the event passed off. The Hall was tastefully decorated for the occasion, and the music supplied by the Elkhorn string band, of five pieces, was the best ever heard in the County. The supper was provided by the Windsor House, and was both elegant and sumptuous, and served in such a manner as to call forth unbounded praise from all. The thanks of the Committee are due some of their Virden friends for assisting with the music while the band was at supper. A long and varied program was gone through, and the party broke about daylight. The Committee were Messrs. Cushing, Greenwood, Dixon, Bailey and Rothnie, and among the guests we noticed the following:

Mr. and Mrs. McDonald,
Mr. and Miss Hooper,
Mr. and Mrs. R. Trumbell,
Mr. and Mrs. C. Trumbell,
Mr. W. Joslyn,
Mr. J. H. Agnew,
Dr. Young,
D. McLean, M. P. P.,
Mr. H. Simpson,
Mr. A. C. Freeborn,
Mr. Lamb, Winnipeg,
Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Wood,
Mr. and Mrs. R. Pope,
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wood,
Mr. and Mrs J. Montgomery,
Miss Nellie Jaffray,
Miss McLeod,
Miss Mary McLeod,
Miss Cole,
Miss Nellie Cole,
Mr. and Miss Rowswell,
Miss Buckingham,
Miss Johnston,
Mr. and Miss Leslie,
Mr. and Mrs. R. Allen,
Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Bent,
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Jackson,
Miss Cavanagh,
Miss Bailey,
Miss Clemence,
Miss Massander,
Mrs. Stark,
Mr. J. McLaggart,
" A. D. Jolliffe,
" Alex. Brown,
" D. Wood,
" Wm. Jaffray,
" A. Cunningham,
" S. Coulson,
" A. R. Sherwood,
" H. C. Smart, London,
" A. G. Mealley,
" J. Scott,
" R. Watson,
" G. Johnston,
" T. Symington,
" A. E. Aspenwall,
" W. J. Bond,
" R. Bailey,
" E. Bailey,
" J. McLeod,
" R. Stewart,
" O. Jones.

THE 17TH CHAPTER, BOOK OF ELKHORN BAR LIFE.

(Copied from "Elkhorn Breeze.")

And it came to pass in those days that there was a man of Elk, named Billy, and he was a mighty poolist; yea, he excelled in billiards. And there were also certain young men, known to the crowd as suckers, and lo! Billy he laid low for them and chuckled. And he waxed great, for verily, he practised night and day, yea, the halls never rested, for he smote them so that the host groaned in spirit and mourned his 10 cents. And lo! when the young men came in, yea, even the suckers came in, Billy cried unto them and said, "come and play with me, for ye are great, and lo! is a soft snap, for behold I give unto thee points, yea, even unto the downfall of myself. And it came to pass when he had persuaded them he then played with exceeding great skill, and passeth them and beateth them, yea, even by more than he gave. He then rejoiced in spirit, but lo! there was a man of Belial, yea, one that dealeth in meats, called Joe, of the tribe Eggish, and he abode in the tents of Cavanagh. And lo! when he saw the man Billy, of the Elks, call unto him, the young man scoffed at him and set him at naught and cried, "yea, verily, thou thinkest us all suckers, but we are not." Then Billy waxed wroth and worried him, and when he played strove to rattle him, till he, even Joe, of the English, also was in his indignation, and they were both mad. And there they remain even unto this day. Selah.

Frank Leslie's Magazine for March.

The great interest attaching to the music dramas of Richard Wagner, just now, make especially timely the article of Louis C. Elson on "Richard Wagner, his Life and Influence," in FRANK LESLIE'S SUNDAY MAGAZINE for March. Mr. Elson writes, not as a Wagner partisan nor detractor, but takes a calm and judicial view of the theories of the great composer. Wagner's works are more than operas, they are great epic poems in music, and must not be judged as operas. They deal with grand and heroic, though mythic characters, and teach valuable lessons concerning the Tentot ic and Scandinavian mithology which Christianity has displaced. Another very interesting article is Dr. Felton's sketch of the "Emin Pasha Relief Expedition," which has resulted so successfully. Both of these articles are very fully illustrated. Emily Pierce's loving paper on "Helen Hunt Jackson" will be thoroughly appreciated by all who admired that gifted woman. Dr. Talmage's sermon on "The Proved Invalid" is one of his most characteristic efforts. The serial story, "In Exchange for a Soul," is concluded, and the other story, "His Banner Over Me," is evidently nearing its end. Both of these stories are exceedingly good in their different ways. There are many shorter and valuable articles and some very fine illustrations, which we have not space to mention.

Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly for March.

There are questions of importance before the American public on which Congress must soon act or appeal to the sovereign people to adopt amendments to the Constitution which will meet the wants, or enable the National Legislature to do so. One of these is the Immigration Question, and there is a timely article on the subject in FRANK LESLIE'S POPULAR MONTHLY for March. An illustrated sketch of the late Lady Brassey and her life on the yacht "Sunbeam" will be appreciated by all who enjoyed her charming books. "Three Typical Americans—David Crockett, Ben Hardin and Thomas Corwin,—give Mr. McCann a theme which he treats admirably. "A Finished City," what the people of Annapolis call the Maryland capital, and its quaint old homes and ways and by-ways, are cleverly depicted. There is, too, a bright sketch of Hindoo women, by a lady who lived among them, and writes of what she knows by personal experience. We find a bit of adventure in the sketch "In the Tracks of the American Lion." "Dolls and Dollmakers" is a curious treatise that will interest the young and amuse the elders. The article on a Lump of Sugar treats its subject in a popularly scientific manner that cannot fail to interest. The

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and are prepared to sell Lumber of all kinds, Shingles, Lath, Tar Paper and Hardware AT LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICES.

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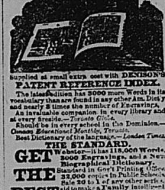

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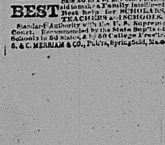

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CITY MEAT MARKET

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begs to thank his numerous customers for the liberal patronage they have bestowed on him during the four years he has been in business in Virden, and hopes by strict attention to meait a continuance of their custom.

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Special Inducements to buyers of Large Quantities.

The Virden Advance

THURSDAY, FEB. 23rd, 1888.

VIRDEN AND VICINITY.

VIRDEN MARKETS.—Wheat 47 to 49, barley 30 to 32, oats 22 to 26, eggs 20 to 25, butter 20.

TRAINS CANCELLED.—Tuesday's express from the east was cancelled, as was also Wednesday's express from west.

FARMERS, ATTENTION!—Mr. Jas Milliken has written us stating that at the Farmers' Meeting next Tuesday he will read a paper on "The Rotation of Crops."

A COMING SOCIAL.—A social will be held at the residence of Mr. Jas. Elder, Hensall Farm, on Wednesday next, Feb. 29th. The proceeds will be in aid of the fund for paying off the debt on the Manse.

A TREAT IN STORE.—We understand that the concert being prepared by the pupils of the Virden Public Schools will be given on Friday, March 9th. Doubtless this concert will be well patronized, it being the first attempt of the kind here.

OUR CURLERS.—Yesterday morning the following Virden curlers went down to Carberry to take part in the curling contests to take place there. R. Trumbell, D. McDonald, A. McDonald, E. Perkins, C. Bower, W. D. Craig, W. J. Kennedy, G. N. Miller. They will doubtless come back crowned with laurels.

A. STONER LOCATED.—A. Stoner, barrister, of Virden, who mysteriously disappeared about three weeks ago, and was supposed to have perished on the prairie in a snow storm, has been located at Barnsville, Minn. No reason is given for his departure and even his wife was ignorant of his whereabouts. Stoner represented a couple of loan companies, but his accounts are evidently correct.—*Winnipeg Call.*

FARMERS' MEETING.—The fourth of the series of Farmers' meetings, under the auspices of the Dennis No. 1 Agricultural Society, will be held in the Virden House next Tuesday, the 28th inst., on which occasion Mr. W. J. Kennedy will read a paper on "Our Future Fuel Supply," and Mr. Jas. Milliken will read one on "The Rotation of Crops." There should be a large turn out of farmers, as these are both important subjects.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT TO W. J. MAY.—On Tuesday last as Mr. W. J. May was examining a baby carriage outside Mr. Burgess' store he got scared by one of Mr. Jones' terriers which was passing. In his fright he slipped, and falling forward broke two panes of glass out of Mr. Burgess' window. Fortunately the accident did not result fatally to Mr. May, but he was found to be so firmly wedged in a baby's chair (one of the perforated sort variety) that he was with difficulty extricated.

A SAD CASE.—During the past week or more our town has had its usual quiet disturbed by a very sad occurrance. Mrs. Willing, widow of the late Matthew Willing, became suddenly insane. The first intimation given to the public of the sad event was made on Tuesday morning, 14th inst., when one of her little boys was sent to the Manse to tell Mr. minister that his mother was dying, and requesting that Mrs. Currie should repair to her home at once. When Mrs. Currie reached the house he found her in a state of great excitement, but evidently not so near death as she imagined herself to be. From that day onward she grew rapidly worse, becoming quite dangerous, until yesterday she was removed to Brandon for safe keeping.

LITTLE LOCALS.

—The Dominion Parliament meets to-day.

—Merchants, advertise in the VIRDEN ADVANCE.

—The Provincial Legislature meets next Thursday.

—Yes, Mr. Jas. Acheson is a proud man. It is another boy.

—Grand Orange Lodge of Manitoba met in Brandon yesterday.

—The Carnival held here on Tuesday last was a great success.

—Mr. J. A. Merrick went to Winnipeg this week on business.

—Mr. J. J. Caulfield was in Brandon the latter part of last week.

—Rev. A. Currie will preach next Sunday evening from John X, 11, "I am the Good Shepherd."

—Mr. D. Watson went to Brandon yesterday morning to attend the Grand Orange Lodge as delegate from the Virden lodge.

—Sup't Tait kindly allowed those in charge of Mrs. Willing the use of his own private car in removing the unfortunate lady to Brandon.

—Teams will be provided for the convenience of all who desire to go from the town to the social at Mr. Ander's. They will leave Down's corner at 6 o'clock.

—The regular monthly meeting of L. O. L. 1519 will be held in Virden next Monday evening. A large turn out of members is requested as business of great importance will come before the lodge.

—The Virden ADVANCE is the best paper for the farmers of this county, containing each week a large amount of local news. No farmer in Dennis County should be without it. The subscription price is only $1.50 per year—less than 3 cents per week.

—Mrs. A. Storer left for the States last Sunday morning to see her husband. She left her little daughter here until she returns.

—Read carefully Mr. Johnston's advertisement re the sale of his celebrated stallion "Young Bay Comet," which will be found in another column.

—The Rev. J. H. L. Joslyn will preach next Sunday at the residence of Mr. John Cameron's at 11 o'clock, and Virden at 19:30 o'clock.

Skating Carnival.

The second carnival of the season took place in the Virden rink last Tuesday evening and was a great success. The attendance was very large, although the number of costumes was small. Following is the list of those in costume, and also the prize winners:

Mrs. Irwin, Riding costume;
Mrs. Young, Snowshoer;
Miss Irwin, Granny;
Miss Wilcox, Granny;
Miss Schoenas, Riding costume;
Miss Kennedy Student;
Miss Hooper, Morning Star;
Miss Rex, White costume;
W. McDougall, Coat of Mail;
J. English, Highland costume;
H. Goulter, Snowshoer;
H. Porter, Snowshoer;
W. T. B. Kennedy, Snowshoer;
P. Kelly, Cricketer;
Frank McDougall, Lady;
F. Atkinson, Irishman.

Best Ladies' costume—Miss Kennedy, Bronze clock.

Lady Skater—Miss Hooper, Card case.

Gents' Comic costume—W. McDougall, Comic pin.

Gentleman Skater—Mr. McNevin, Scarf pin.

Boys race under 13 years—Ed. Irwin, $1.00.

Boys race under 15 years—H. McGuffin, $1.50.

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Teachers of public schools in this county are invited to send in their monthly reports to be published in this column.

Oakwood School Report.

The following report of Oakwood School, Oak Lake, for the month ending Feb. 17th 1888:

Maximum in all Standards 400.

STANDARD III.—Rudolf Ronberg 300, Edith Parsons 33.

STANDARD II.—Belvie Todd 374, Laura Horsman 363, Mary McFarlane 357, Belvie Todd 284, Louis Moore 235, Frank Parsons 207.

STANDARD I C.—Frank Warren 393, John Miller 393, Emma Warren 383, Wm. Dauphinais 360, Fred Parsons 196 Winifred Chalwin 30.

STANDARD I B.—Isaiah Dauphinais 386, May Hood 350, Mollie Miller 224, Claude Cook 203, Mary Dauphinais 158, John Chalwin 144, Ellen Ronberg 50.

JANET A. HORSMAN, Teacher.

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BIRTH-, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.
Notices under this heading, free.

BIRTHS.

ACHESON.—At Virden, on the 20th inst., the wife of James Acheson of a son.

HALL.—At Virden, on the 20th inst., the wife of W. H. Hall of a daughter.

SERJEANT.—In Virden, on the 22nd inst., the wife of W. R. Serjeant of a son.

MARRIAGES.

EVANS-JOHNSON.—In the Manse, Virden, on the 15th inst., by the Rev. A. Currie, Wm. Evans to Margaret A. Johnson, all of Arrow River, Man.

A WIFE WANTED.

AN ELDERLY MAN, who is tired of living alone, wants to open up a correspondence with any female between the ages of 15 and 60 with a view to matrimony. Any one answering this card can obtain good references as to character. All correspondence strictly confidential. Address: X Y Z, ADVANCE Office, Virden.

FOR SALE!

THAT CELEBRATED Stallion "YOUNG BAY COMET," who has proved himself for two years a sure stock getter, and his colts have taken all the first prizes in the heavy draught class in the county for the last two years. Weight 1,500 pounds.

PEDIGREE.

BAY COMET is a beautiful dark bay, 8 years old, stands 16½ hands high, has strong bone and particularly good action. Bay Comet was got by Old Bay Comet, who was imported by John Hope, in August, 1875. He was got by the noted horse Bay Comet, the property of Mr. Hope, and was one of the prizes at Edinburg, Birmingham, Glasgow and a good many other places. His dam is a pure bred Clydesdale mare, the winner of three first prizes at Glasgow, Forfar and Dumfries. His sire is the well known horse Waxwork, who gained prizes at Liverpool Forfar and Aberdeen. Bay Comet's dam was got by a coach horse; grand dam by Miller's (Markham) imported Clydesdale mare. Bay Comet is a horse with good blood lines. Bay Comet was shown only once, at Milton, where he took 1st prize and diploma.

For further particulars apply to

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Will be at Virden House stables on 20th inst.

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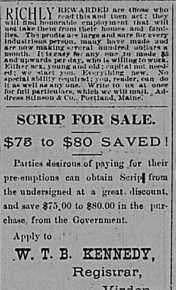

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A GREAT SECRET
OR, SHALL IT BE DONE.

CHAPTER XVII.—(CONTINUED.)

Madame Kourtel, good soul, who came of an ugly race, and looked upon handsome people as eccentricities of Nature that should not be judged too harshly, tried to heal the breach by a well-meaning but tactless inquiry when Madame de Lancry and Mr. Beresford would leave Calais.

"Not for some time, I think," answered Madaline gravely. "I have just made up my mind to ask my husband to take a house a little way out of the town for a few months; the p'ace is so cheerful and the society so charming."

Victor glanced uneasily round to see how his relations took this speech; but it exciting nothing more than surprise in most of them.

"I don't think you will find it so gay if you settle down here," said Madame Fournier doubtfully.

"And poultry is so dear here!" hazarded a cousin; adding hurriedly, with an awkward laugh, "but of course that would not affect you, madame."

"No," said Madame de Lancry, slowly, as she rose to go, "it will not affect me much, for while I am here I shall live upon excitement."

The ladies present fame one and all to the consolation that Madame de Lancry was mad; but the gentlemen viewed her accomplishments with awe.

"I could never have believed that I should have found a romantic, rubber-hunted disciple so near to civilization," she went on. "I really feel a delicious dread of being attacked on my way back to Calais."

And she glanced at Gerald. Before he could offer to escort her back, however, Victor sprang forward with open jealousy burning in his face.

"Let me go with you, madame; no one knows the road as well as I do."

Madame de Lancry laughed as she laid her hand on Gerald's arm.

"What would your fiancee say?" said she, in a low voice, which, however, Victor's keen little ears overheard.

"O you may take him, madame, I don't mind," she broke in with alacrity, glancing alternately at Gerald and the beautiful lady, with open disapproval of their friendly attitude.

"You are not jealous, then," said Madame de Lancry, playfully raising the unwilling little head, and bending to look straight into the child's eyes.

"Not of—Victor," answered Fanny, bold by, but in an honest little voice, which needed the sidelong look of anger she cast at Gerald to make her meaning clear.

Madame de Lancry kept the indignant face between her hands for a few moments longer, as her interest evidently deepened as she took of. Then she turned very suddenly, to try to get the last lamp upon the girl's face. But Fanny wriggled herself out of the lady's grasp, and, plunging into the group of whilst Madame Fournier formed a member, put her head into the mother's lap and refused to look at Victor, who had recovered his self-possession, wisely refrained from joining the child's party, but gathered to the full to see Madame de Lancry off, but devoted himself to dispelling the constraint her conversation caused by his behavior to her, with animation still more marked, still less spontaneous than before. No one guessed how he loathed every member of the dull society he was entertaining, and how madly he smiled—for the moment—the gentle English lad Madame de Lancry so unaccountably preferred to Victor Lamb.

The little square omnibus which had brought the unexpected visitor to "Les Boulaux" rumbled slowly for some distance on the road back to Calais before either of its occupants broached any subject of particular interest to the other. Gerald felt shy of doing so, and Madame de Lancry was not talkative.

"So that little wild girl is the queen of women, I like said, at last, smiling rather nervously as he spoke.

"Yes, madame," he answered, feeling hot and angry, but resolved to be true and stick to his colors.

"Well, I have examined her and thought over the situation, and I think it would be much better for you to give her up."

"I beg your pardon, madame," said he, sharply, "but no fellow worth the name of a man ever does give up a girl for that reason. Besides, you can't give up what you haven't got, and what you never had a chance to get either, for Fanny don't care for her. It won't make any difference, and I can't explain myself, but it only makes me look like a fool."

"Well, what shall we talk about, then?"

"Won't you tell me why you came to see Mr. Beresford? I can't help thinking it was about—about that awful night's work, and I know you wont' to see old Monnier about it. You have told me just enough to make me half mad to know more."

"What do you want to know?"

"The name of the man who killed my father. Only tell me and I will hunt him out and—"

"That is unnecessary, for I know where he is."

Gerald started violently.

"Tell me—for God's sake, tell me I" said he hoarsely; "I would give anything or something to do now—like that."

And in the dusk she saw on the young man's face the hungry look brought by unsatisfied passion, and she knew that the tool was growing sharper and sharper.

"I can not tell you. For I have so little proof of what I know—that, if the two murderers were arrested now, he would be able to prove that on the night Mr. Shaw died he was asleep in bed now—two hundred miles away.

Gerald's face changed.

"It is proof of you to play with me like this, madame," he answered, with bitterness and sneer unusual in him. "You led me on to believe—"

"What I believed myself—that I had a mine between my very fingers. I have found out to-day that I was mistaken—that the work before us is not even begun."

"Well, how am I to begin it? Give me something to do, some reason for going away from this place, or I think I shall go mad."

"Ah I" broke out Madame Lancry, rather bitterly, "it is the girl, always the girl, who is in your head. If you could have her and be happy with her, you would soon forget all about clearing your father's name."

"You are hard upon me, madame. I have promised to do it, and avenging him so long and so vainly that it hangs about me like an old dream, and I can't get rid of the belief that it will ever be realized."

"And the other hope—isn't that a vain one too?"

"Yes, I—I suppose so."

"O then you must be still some idea of entering the lists with Victor, and coming off conqueror after all?"

Gerald stared at her in wounded astonishment. She had always shown the best side of her nature to him, and he could not see the sneers were disconcerting.

"No, I have, madame," he said at last. "But if one were to let all one's hopes go out at once, one wouldn't get on very well, and—I suppose you don't know what it is to—to be quite cracked about one!" and he looked at her with deep admiration. "But can't you understand how the fellows fall who were cracked about you?"

The tone had given Gerald a sudden gust of kindness, as if he had struck the right note at last.

"Yes, Gerald, perhaps I can," she said. "And it is true that you can do nothing until I have found out something for you to do."

"Is awfully good of you to take so much interest in this business."

"Good? No, that is not the right word. Disinterested help is weak and capricious. Luckily for you, in helping you I am helping myself."

Gerald watched her face silently for a few moments, and then said, quietly, "I think I understand. You have same grudge of your own against the man who killed my father?"

"Yes."

"And you have been brooding over it all these years, just as I have done?"

"No. I had almost forgotten it when chance—or—or perhaps something higher—brought me face to face with you. Then I remembered, having nothing better to do, that I had a promise to keep and an oath to fulfil; the promise concerned you, Gerald, and the oath concerned your father's murderer."

The young man said nothing. This woman's nature, that could lie calm so long, and then be stirred by strong waves of passionate impulse, was quite a new and inexplicable thing to him; and her cynical suggestion that she had set herself to this bloodhound's task for want of anything better to do excited in him alarm and distrust. He glanced at her shyly, and waited for her to explain herself.

But as the little omnibus began to rattle through the stone-paved Calais streets, Madame de Lancry broke off her melodramatic mood, and teased the poor lad by talking of nothing but trifles; and when they reached the door of the Hotel de la Gare he helped her to alight in a rather constrained manner.

"Good-night, madame," said he, hesitatingly, as she was sweeping past him into the hotel.

"O come in," she said lightly, glancing behind her shoulder.

"But Mr. Beresford will not like me to stay away longer; I know is will displease him."

"Mr. Beresford's freaks need no longer disturb you. You are not going back to 'Les Boulaux.'"

She laid her arm firmly on the arm of the astonished lad, and drew him within the doorway, speaking at the same time in a very quiet and decided voice.

"Do you know where Mr. Smith is, Gerald?"

"Mr. Smith! He is in London."

"You know his address?"

"O yes; I write him long letters at Mr. Beresford's dictation very often."

"That's all right. Now come up stairs, and we'll see what we can do to open up the bright journey. You must cross to England to-night."

CHAPTER XVIII.

Gerald Staunton heard Madame de Lancry's mandate very calmly, and let her lead him up-stairs into her sitting-room unresistingly. But no sooner had she closed the door, and looked well at his face by the light of the candles, which had been burning some time in anticipation of her return, than she saw that she had overrated his docility.

"I am sorry I can't do what you wish, madame, for you have been very kind to me. But I could not think of going to London without Mr. Beresford's permission. Good-night."

She was at the door before he finished speaking, and would have been out of the room in another moment, but Madame de Lancry had not darted across the room with the lightness of a girl, and caught both his hands in a grip of unexpectedly savage and muscular that Gerald instinctively tried to wrest himself free as angrily as if she had been a man.

"What, madame, leading straight into his indignant face with lurid, dilated eyes. "What has Mr. Beresford ever done for you to control your actions, when you are not a clerk in his office has worked so hard as you, both while he was away and since? What will he ever done to make your life worth living? Can you doubt now that it would have been better for you to spend the few months when he picked you up in Paris six years ago with him, than to have left you to your own life in the dull drudgery from which he rescued you? Can you doubt that the man who killed your father—Mr. Beresford wants to keep you of the trade, that he may have you all to himself, and make you his slave?"

Gerald's face grew white and wet as he looked at her and heard the burning words that was tearing into his soul with every sentence. At the end he tried again to free himself from her grasp, with the manner of a man who is listening from sheer weakness.

"I cannot go, madame. He is my employer at least, I'd he is not my friend."

She drew back a little way from him and dexly without releasing him, and, as she spoke again, her voice was now longer shrill perfectly persuasive, but rang out in sharp clear tones like a bell.

"Do you know," she said, "that it is more presence at his funeral that is hastening Miss Beresford's marriage with young Fournier?"

The young man's limbs began to twitch and to tremble, and he was again like wax in her hands. She pressed her advantage instantly.

"The old man knows of your fancy for his daughter. He does not care a straw for any pain you may feel, and he will avoid all bother by marrying her before your eyes, within a few days, to a man she does not love her. Are you willing to witness this?"

"Why going away would not change Mr. Beresford's plans. You do not know him," he said dully, hoarsely.

"My poor boy, you have no one else to trust. You may as well trust me," said she again, with a change in her manner to caressing softness, as she again drew nearer to him. "If you will be as I wish and cross to England to-night, I will not only tell you Mr. Beresford's personality to remain away, but I will swear to you that his daughter shall marry no one against her own will."

Gerald raised his head, breathing heavily, and looked with dull, dazed eyes wistfully into the passionate, hard, yet swiftly-changing face before him.

"If I have—away—from her" he said brokenly. "You will only be good to her if I do that? Madame, why won't you go? I am not a child. It is not fair to use me blindly on in the dark. What power is it you have over us all.

"Simply the power of a wilful woman, my dear boy; but there is another name for the world like it," said Madame de Lancry, forcing some of her tragic earnestness at the moment that it had made sufficient impression.

"And you want me to trust only to that?"

"Ah, you are not yet bribed beautify enough!" she broke out impatiently. "If is not enough for you that the girl should be O Gerald, you must be safe with you? Well, then, follow my instructions for the next week and you shall be free to marry the girl you will."

The magnetic influence of this woman's will was upon him again, and the passion and earnestness was so strong that a tide of joy rose in his heart. "Is my word enough? I swear away all doubt as to her power of fulfilling her promises.

"Yes, madame," he said, almost staggering, as at last he felt himself free from her grasp.

And he turned toward the door, his brain dizzy, his senses quickened, his heart on fire. The faint cloud of relief, which had certainly escaped from the lady's lips, roused him from his stupor, however, and he turned, not irresolute, but with resolution in his face.

"I will go to 'Les Boulaux,' and ask Mr. Beresford to let me return to England; if, as you say, he wants to get rid of me, no doubt he will let me go at once, and I will come and receive your orders."

"You are under my orders now," said she imperiously, turning him like a child from the door, and half forcing him into a chair beside the stove. "You will not leave this hotel except to go straight to the boat, and by the time you arrive in London you will find Mr. Beresford's permission to return there waiting for you."

Gerald did not try to resist any longer. He sat as if stupefied, answering with a effort the remarks his hostess made on indifferent subjects as she opened her writing-case and prepared to write letters. As he furtively watched her movements, Gerald was surprised to see that her manner of setting herself to this task was fanally feminine in its artful simple and freedom like as he had expected from her strength of will and firmness of purpose. In the midst of her busy play with blotting-paper and pen-wiper, the door opened, and a gentleman, whom Gerald guessed to be M. de Lancry, came in. He glanced from Gerald, who rose, to his wife, who nodded to him, and saying briefly, "Mr. Staunton, a young friend of mine," went on with her occupation.

So the old and the young men sat meekly down, and, after the exchange of a few commonplaces, the two seemed to take to each other's society, and, as the lady left them entirely to themselves, they chatted very amicably for some time, until the latter, who perpetrated in speaking laborious English in spite of Gerald's efforts to keep him on more familiar ground, asked him what Madame de Lancry was doing for him.

"Some trouble with your sweetheart, and my wife made it up," he suggested and my wife made it up," he suggested and my wife made it up," he suggested